	State	*Area (Lakh ha.)*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.60
2.	Haryana	0.18
3.	Karanataka	8.86
4.	Madhya Pradesh	0.28
5.	Maharashtra	4.97
6.	Punjab	0.14
7.	Tamil Nadu	0.18
	All India	16.42

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). To increase the area and production of oilseeds including Sunflower, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (Opp) is being implemented in the country. The assistance is provided on production and distribution of seed, plan protection measures, seed minits, distribution of gypsum and pyrites Rhizobial cultures, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements and front-line and general demonstrations etc. it is propose to continue OPP during Eighth Plan.

Visit by High Level Team From Kuwait

2609. SHRI DHAMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-level official team from Kuwait is visiting India shortly; and

(b) if so, the objectives of this visit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) an (b). A multi-disciplinary Kuwaiti expert team is scheduled to vist India in the near future to hold talks with their Indian counterparts to explore the possibility of expanding bilateral cooperation.

Leakage of Gas From cylinders

2610. SHRI JEEWAN SHRMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given on September 10, 1991 to Unstarred Question No. 6349 and state:

(a) whether the investigation regarding leakage of gas from cylinders has since been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). While Indian oil Corporation has furnished some information further details are being ascertained.

Time Limit for Issue of passport

2611. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose top prescribe any time limit for the issue of passport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLNKI): (a) and (b). Instruction have been given to the Passport Offices to issue passports in 5 weeks of receipt of applications. But they are not in all cases able to , meet this goal due to delay in receipt of police reports , heavy increase in input application and shortage of staff.

However, passport procedures have been simplified to facilities expeditious issue of passport services. The details are given in the attached statement.

STATEMENT

Simplification of Passport Procedures

1. Following categories of applications have been exempted from requirement of prior police and CID verifications before issue of passports to them:

(a) All government servants and Employees of Public Sector Undertaking who alongwith their application submit No Objection Certificate (NOC) and verifciation certificate singed by their Head of Department on Official stationery.

(b) Retired Gazetted Government Servants.

(c) Former Members of Union Parliament (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha) and State Legislatures (Assemblies and Councils).

(d) Sitting MPs and MLAs have been exempted from requirement of police verification where they choose to apply for an ordinary passport.

(e) Where an applicant submits his application accompanied with a verification certificate signed by either:

(i) A Deputy Secretary to the Government of India and above;

(ii) a Joint Secretary and above to a State Government:

(iii) a Sub-divisional Magistrate and above:

(iv) District Superintendent of Police and above:

2. In cases where Regional Passport Officers/passport offices are otherwise satisfied with genuineness of applicant, a passport may be issued where police and CID do not send their reports in 4 weeks after despatching personal particulars forms to them.

3. Children below the age of 15 years may be issued passport without waiting for police verification.

4. Persons holding normal passports may be issued fresh passports after 10 years of its validity without waiting for prior Police/ CID verification.

5. As From 16 -3-90 the Indian ordinary passport has been made valid for a period of ten years at a stretch from date of issue

6. Procedure for recognition of Travel Agents dealing with Passport Offices has been simplified for ex-service men.

7. To increase the productivity of passport Offices steps are being taken to computerise the passport Offices.

8. Attestation of photohgraphs of applicants by Gazetted Officers has been dispensed with.

9. The Application forms completed in all respects will be accepted on counters of passport offices , even from persons other than the applicants.

10. Passport Offices have been advised to accept a copy of letter of employment for reputed employers towards proof of stay of an applicant within jurisdication of passport offices.

11.The Passport Application from has been revised and all relevant pieces of information have been compiled and appended to each application form so that applicant is able to fill up application form correctly.

12. In case of Gulf evacuees, it has been decided to issue them police clearance Certificate based on verification certificate issued by the concerned District Superintendent of Police.

13. Restriction on Indian Passport holders visiting South Africa has been removed with effect from 10th December, 1991.

Voluntary Organisations

2612 SHRI M.V. V. S. MURTHY:
SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
DR. K.D. JESHWANI:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the voluntary organsations getting Finacial assistance alongwith the amount received by each organisation during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the schemes which have been given priority during 1991-92; and

(c) the proposed Schemes for the year 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c). The Schemes for welfare of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Drug addicts, and children in need of care and protection etc. handicapped etc. have been receiving priority. Such scheme will be continued during the year 1992-93. also.